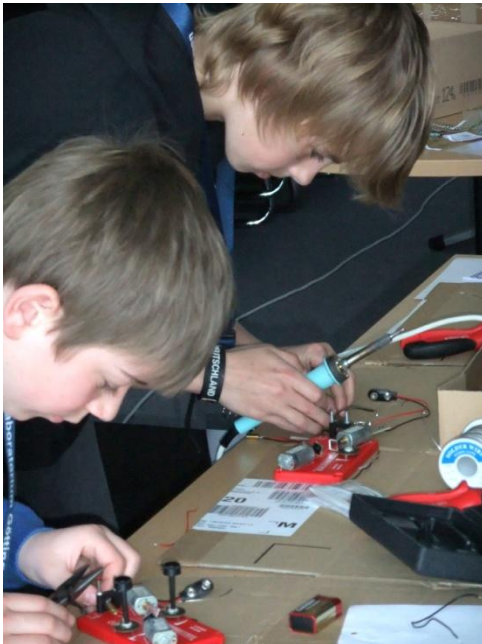


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A Look Inside Scientific Jobs for Boys and Girls



Johann (11) and Josh (10) are building own disco lasers

In April 22, companies and research institutes opened their doors one day for girls in the age between 10 and 15 („Girls Day”) so that they can experience working fields which are still unusual for women such as technology and sciences. This year, the event is celebrating its tenth anniversary and the one millionth participant takes part in the actions. This event day becomes more and more important to girls and their way to the jobs – as well as for boys, who would like to participate in the event designed for a better job orientation of young people.

Especially in the fields of scientific research and development, youth encouragement is very important: The interest in sciences has to be awakened as early as possible, and the children do often need help to find their way in difficult themes. Many young people do not recognize how often they have to deal with sciences in their everyday life, and they tend to underrate their own talents.

Of course, it is not enough to give scientific impulses just at school. For bigger and smaller companies with a focus on scientific themes as well as for scientific research institutes, events like the Girls' and Boys' Day are a good opportunity to open their doors for a visit of the young people. Very often, special projects are offered to give the children the possibility to try out things themselves.

The Laser Laboratorium in Göttingen, Germany, had the pleasure to welcome a mixed group with boys and girls from the age of 10 to 12. They had the chance to see the institute, experience a researchers work and to find out how to handle an engraving laser, how to read connection schemes and use a soldering rod to built an own disco laser; after that, the young guest started their own laser show. They were very interested and explored the practical and technical parts of laser physics enthusiastically. Scientists and pupil enjoyed the event, so that the interesting and fun parts of sciences could be shown successfully.



Dr. Stephan Wieneke explains how to use a soldering rod



Nina (12) is working on her electric circuit